

ELWICK PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of meeting held at 7.00pm on Thursday 25th April 2019 at Elwick WI Hall

Present: Cllrs. P. Hutchinson (Chair), H. Thompson, E. Hurst, B. Irving, R. Thompson

In Attendance: Ward Cllr. M. Young, Mrs. M. West, Clerk

1. **Apologies:** Parish Cllrs. D. Atkins & R. Musgrave, Ward Cllr. B. Loynes - **accepted**
2. **Public Forum:** No issues raised
3. **Declarations of Interest:** None made.
4. **Minutes of 28th March 2019:** Minutes had been circulated in advance of the meeting. Cllr. H. Thompson moved acceptance, seconded by Cllr. Irving. All agreeing, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the minutes as a true and accurate record.
5. **Matters Arising:**
 - (a) Church Bank pre-planning application:** The Clerk reported that she had received an email from an HBC Planning officer that afternoon confirming that planning permission was not required as it falls within the permitted development rights afforded to Parish Councils under Part 12 of Schedule 2 of the Town and Country Planning Act (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015. However, we shall need to liaise with the Highways Department regarding the closure of Church Bank during the period of the work, which could take several weeks. The cost of closing the road would fall on the Parish Council. The Clerk informed that she had already emailed Kieran Bostock, HBC, about the possibility of undertaking the work at the same time as he had planned to close the road in order to undertake the repairs to the drains/close the crossings on the A19; this would result both in EPC not having to pay for the road closure and in less disruption for traffic; she awaited a response. Councillors expressed relief at the news and agreed that the Clerk's actions had been well considered. The Clerk further reported that she had issued three invitations to tender for the work of refurbishing the two cinder paths and replacing the fence, in accordance with the Council's Financial Regulations. She had already received a response from one firm requesting a site visit, which she had arranged for 1st May.
 - (b) Sponsored Waste Bin:** The Clerk reported that Mr & Mrs Henry Sturrock had responded very positively to the request that they sponsor a waste bin for the ghyll. Cllr. Young asked where the sponsored bin was to be placed; the Clerk responded that it had been agreed that a bin was required in the ghyll itself, as HBC had been asked many times to provide both a general waste and a dog bin at the end of The Ghyll, the road leading into the ghyll, although none had transpired to date. Cllr. Young agreed to take this up with officers at HBC. **Action:** Cllr. Young to request waste bins for The Ghyll.
 - (c) Stolen Bench:** The Clerk informed that there was a £100 Excess to be met for any insurance claim, and that Zurich accepted that, although gifted to the Parish Council, the bench would be considered an asset as it had been installed. The Clerk was asked to pursue the claim. **Action:** Clerk to make claim for stolen bench.
 - (d) Public transport:** The Clerk noted that Cllr. Loynes had forwarded to her the contact details for Stagecoach, and that she had spoken with Shaun Anderson, who had agreed to come to the next meeting of the Parish Council, 30th May, together with a colleague from his commercial department, to discuss possibilities for a bus service. Cllr. Hurst noted that Wynyard had no service either; the Clerk suggested she raise this with Stagecoach officers when they came, as it may make a service for Elwick more viable.
6. **Ward Councillor's report:** Cllr. Young apologised for not being able to provide an update, as the expected report from Cllr. Loynes had not arrived in time for the meeting. Councillors

expressed their frustration that no actions on requests to HBC seemed to be taken although also requested by Ward Councillors. It was suggested that Ward Councillors request specific timescales for action from HBC officers in future.

7. Wynyard Report: Cllr. Hurst spoke to her written report as follows:

- **A689:** Have HBC applied to the Tees Valley Mayor for the offered funds for crossings? She noted that HBC granted planning permission seven years ago, one of the conditions of which was that the developer would provide a crossing; in the meantime, a primary school has been built on opposite side of A689, requiring children to cross this busy road to get to school. Has developer been approached to bring forward the delivery of a crossing? She noted, with great concern, that children attending Sedgefield Community College are being picked up and dropped off outside The Stables on the south side of the A689, so must cross the road at a busy, dangerous roundabout. Another cyclist has been hit by a car recently at the east gate roundabout, bringing the number of accidents this year to 25. Cllr. Young responded that he did not have the answers to her questions but would do his best to ascertain the information. The Clerk offered to write to the developer about the situation and asking them to be socially responsible and provide a crossing for those families purchasing their houses. Cllr. Hurst welcomed the offer.
- **Advertising Hoardings:** Proliferation of these developer advertisements is a real problem, not just the large hoardings but smaller signs attached to lamp posts. As well as being unsightly, the signs are a distraction for drivers. Do they have planning permission for this?
- **Lamp Posts:** 6 are currently out of order on Wynyard, with another permanently on.
- **Dog Bins:** Two new ones have been installed by HBC, for which we are grateful, however, one has been wrongly placed and needs moving to between the two entrances to Wynyard Woods for the use of dog walkers entering and leaving the country park. The bins also have the wrong Wynyard logo on them - should be Wynyard Estates logo.
- **Green Waste bins:** Residents of Manorfields are finding insufficient capacity for their grass cuttings and refuse people refuse to take them if not fully closed. What can be done? Cllr. Young noted similar problems at West Park and the answer suggested was that residents either compost their green waste or purchase an extra/larger bin from HBC.
- **Woodland Walk Access:** Landowners have blocked off/closed access to the woods on the north side of Wynyard, used for over 20 years by residents. Does not this continual use meet the guidelines for the access to become a public right of way? Ownership of the woods had proved difficult to ascertain. Cllr. Young thought ownership of the woods might be obtained from the Land Registry. Cllr. Hurst also informed that the rough track along the south side of the A689 linking Wynyard to the Castle Eden Walkway was in a poor state of repair. Whilst the track is mostly in Stockton, the Walkway is in Hartlepool. Could the path be formally recognised as a footpath for walkers, though not cyclists, as it is not suitable?
Actions: Cllr. Young to seek clarification of HBC position regarding the crossings, to request Rob Daley to see to the lamp posts, to ask the Countryside Access Officer about the pathways and ask the Technician to investigate woods ownership; Clerk to write to Taylor Wimpey about A689 crossing provision and ask Chris Scaife about walkways.

8. Village Maintenance Committee Report: Cllr. Irving had not provided a written report. She noted that the plastic sleeve over the chain on the zip wire had been replaced, though she was unsure about who had done this, it was most welcome. The zip wire itself still needed raising, signs purchased for the village had still not been erected and none of the actions requested from HBC had been implemented. The paths in the Wildlife Garden needed cutting, the whole area seemed very overgrown and it is not looking very colourful or inviting. The stones around the Green need painting again and she proposed a Working Party be formed to do this; Cllr Hutchinson had plenty of white paint, and Cllr. Irving brushes. The Flower Tubs had been

disappointing this year, with very few with spring bulbs. Cllr Hurst suggested another Flower Tub competition; Cllr H. Thompson concurred and suggested it be judged at the Parish Fete, in June. It was **RESOLVED** that a working party meet at 10.00am on Bank Holiday Monday 6th May to paint the stones and that a Flower Tub competition be announced, promoted in Village Life and at The Annual Parish Meeting. **Actions:** ALL to join working party to paint stones, Cllr Young to raise issues with HBC officers and Clerk to include Flower Tub competition in her Village Life Report and in the Annual PC Newsletter.

9. **Social Activities Committee Report:** Cllr. H. Thompson reported a very successful Easter Egg Hunt had taken place on Easter Monday, with 36 children taking part and families congregating in Cllr. Irving's garden for refreshments and judging of the 'Decorated Egg' competition and 'Name the Easter Bunny' raffle. All were warmly commended, especially Cllrs. Irving and Musgrave, for their sterling efforts in organising the event, Cllr Hurst for judging the egg competition, and Zoe Woodward for managing the entries to the Easter Egg Hunt. The next big event would be the Parish Fete on Sunday 23rd June which was already being developed.
10. **Financial Reports:** The Clerk presented the Financial Reports. She noted that Bank Statements had not been received in time to update the Bank Reconciliation. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the reports and to set up an on-line banking facility in order to overcome the problem of late bank statements.

Receipts	£	Payments	£
HBC (Precept/Concurrent/CTSG)	20,465.00	Affordable Landscapes	400.00
Hart PC (repayment for signs)	61.20		
Wayleaves	20.00		
Total:	20,546.00	Total:	400.00

11. **Red Gap Community Fund 2019:** The Clerk noted that she had received only three suggestions of items for potential inclusion in this year's bid to Red Gap. These were: more play equipment, CCTV for the Playing Field and repairs to the access road on the north side of the Green, east of Holmlea. She felt that, with the recent spate of thefts and damage at the playing Field, until something was done to deter this, it was not a good idea to be spending a lot of money on new equipment. All concurred with this view. The Clerk reported that she had been trying to make contact with Nicolas Stone, HBC regarding CCTV but had not yet managed to speak to him. She understood that Local Authority officers did not rate solar-powered CCCTV cameras, though many householders found them to be very effective. The possibilities were for a camera to be sited on an HBC lamp post or alternatively, on a new pole, overlooking the entrance to the Playing Field with a prominent sign indicating CCTV was in place. It was **RESOLVED** to continue these investigations and to include a CCTV camera and on-costs in the bid. Finally, she had requested a quote from HBC for the refurbishment of the road on the Green, had sent Kieran Bostock a screen shot of a Google Earth picture of the site, and was expecting a site visit and subsequent quote in the next few days. It was **RESOLVED** to include the road repair also in the Red Gap bid. **Action:** Clerk to liaise with Cllr. H. Thomson and draft bid.
12. **Correspondence:** (a) Red Gap: flyer for next round of applications- noted; (b) Wildlife gardeners: started monthly work on Wildlife Garden, same price as last year – noted; (c) ICO newsletter – noted; (d) resident in Manor Close re garden issues – Clerk had visited resident and contacted Thirteen to inform them issue was their responsibility – agreed that Thirteen should be mowing the grass in Manor Close, not EPC and may be good time to remind them of this; also noted that the garages behind Manor Close are in need of repair. **Action:** Clerk to write to Thirteen to request they bring garages up to standard and, if they are not prepared to do this, then pass them over to EPC.
13. **Planning:**
H/2019/0056 - 18, Wellington Gardens, Wynyard – No Comment

H/2019/0114 - Land at Wynyard Woods, Wynyard – No Comment

H/2019/0138 - Former village shop and post office, The Green, Elwick – Strongly support

H/2019/0148 - 7, Eshton, Wynyard – No Comment

H/2019/0160 - Plot 21, Wellington Gardens Wynyard – No Comment

14. Matters of Concern to Councillors: No further matters raised.

15. Date and Time of Next Meeting: 7.00pm Thursday 30th May **NB:** This will be the Parish Council's Annual Meeting

The Annual Parish Meeting is to take place at 7.00pm on Monday 20th May at Elwick WI Hall.

The meeting closed at 9.05pm